SOME NEW BOOKS.

Glimpses of the Howery Kingdom

The Messrs. Harper have published a collection of valuable essays on the education. philosophy, and literature of the Chinese, by Dr. W. A. P. MARTIN. The author's long residence in China, and the remarkable opportunities of observation he has enjoyed as President of the Tueweng College, Pekin, would justify us in expecting much substantial information, even from a man of ordinary abili-ties and attainments. But Dr. Martin is a thoroughly educated man, and no one can read this volume without being impressed with the industry which has turned his opportunities independence of judgment and fertility of in-to becount, and with the scholarlike and vention. Many of those who have given some philosophical tone of his mind. To those attention to educational processes will concur essays, however, which deal with the reli- with Dr. Martin in pronouncing the oral exgions of China we need not particularly advert. | planation of words a desirable method for be-for while they represent the conclusions of an ginners. The objection to the Chinese plan independent inquirer, they do not diverge in seems to be that this method is too long and too any marked degree from the views set forth by exclusively pursued. We should note, further Dr. Leggs in his papular account of the same that in the second stage simultaneously with subject, which has lately been noticed in these columns. More attention will be directed to other papers in this collection, which discuss at length the educational system of China, minutely explaining the aims and processes of the competitive examinations, exemplifying the tutorial appliances by an account of an old university which exists in Pekin, and describing the guages, but the building of an arch with cobbie Imperial Academy, which may be regarded as stones. It is well known that Chinese verbs and the crown of the whole scheme. We need not say that some clear notions on this head are indispensable to any one who would comprehend the structure and workings of the Chinese social

and political organism. Dr. Martin insists that the poculiar character of the Chinese is entirely inexplicable by their physical environment. It cannot be accounted for by their residence in great plains, for half the empire is mountainous; neither is it to be ascribed to a rice diet, for rice is a luxury in which few of the northern population are able to indulge. Still less is it to be referred to the influence of climate, for in their own country the Chinese spread over a broad belt, presenting many varieties of temperature, while they emigrate in all directions and flourish in every zone. Nor is it in Dr. Martin's opinion, even explained by the persistency of an original type, for, in their earlier career, the people which formed the nuclous of the Middle Kingdom absorbed and assimilated several other races, while history shows that at different epochs its own character has undergone remarkable changes. The author finds the true secret of the phenomenon in the presence of an agency, whose general name, though it includes a thousand elements, is education, and which, under our own eyes, has shown itself powerful enough to transform turbulent, nomadie Manchu into the most striking exponents and vehement champions of Chinese manners and ideas. It is education that has imparted a uniform stamp to the Chinese under every variety of physical condition, just as the successive shoots of paper applied to an engraving bring away virtually the same impression, notwithstanding differences in the quality of the material.

Tenacious as is the stamp of the mould, when once applied, the process of education does not begin at so early an age in China as among western nations. As a rule, the whole work of instruction is thrown upon the school, not even the rudiments being obtained at home. Mothers and nurses are not taught to read, and the practice of fathers is mostly governed by an ancient maxim, which prohibits a parent from being the instructor of his own children. In general, the Chinese child vegetates, without the slightest effort being made to develop his mind, until he completes his seventh or eighth year. The almanac is then consulted, and a lucky day chosen for inducting the lad into a life of study. "Clad in festal robe, with tasselled cap, and looking a mandarin in miniature, he sets out for the village school, his face beaming with the happy assurance that all the stars are shedding kindly influence, and his friends predicting that he will end his career in the Imperial Academy," On entering the room the boy performs two acts of worship; the first is to prostrate himself before a picture of the great sage Confucius, who is venerated as the fountain of wisdom, though he is not, of course, supposed to exercise over his votaries anything like a tutelar supervision. The second is to sainte with the same forms and almost equal reverence the teacher who is to guide his inexperienced feet in the pathway to knowledge. The incomparable reverence paid in China to the office of teacher must be mainly due to the fact that his hand holds the key to social and political distinction, though Dr. Martin is doubtless right in regarding it also as a survival of the primitive period when books were few, and the student dependent for everything on the oral teaching of his master In the day of peripatetic or ambaintory schools the personal character of the instructor must have made a profound impression on his pupils, while the necessity of learning by question and answer excited a spirit of inquiry and favored originality of thought. In modern times on the other hand, a man who never had a dozen thoughts in his life sits in the sent of the phi losophers and receives with solemn ceremony the homage of his disciples-for the reason that under the system of competitive examinations every step in the process of teaching has been fixed by unalterable usage. So much is this the case that in describing one school and tracing the steps of one student, Dr. Martin points out

the course of all. The author tells us that the course of a Chinese undergraduate may be divided into three stages, in each of which there are two leaving studies. In the first stage which the publi en ters, as one of his books tells him, " a rough gem that requires grinding," his occupations are committing to memory (but not reading) the canonical books, and writing an infinitude of diversely formed characters as a manual exercise. His books are virtually in a dead language, for in every part of the empire the style of literary composition is so far removed from that of the vernacular speech, that books, when road aloud, are unintelligible, even to the ear of the educated, and the sounds of their characters convey actually no meaning to the mind of a beginner. During the four or five years comprised in the first stage no effort is made t. arouse other faculties besides the memory, by imparting glimpses of the signification of the words got by rote. During all this time the mind has not been enriched by a singlo idea-to get words at the tongue's end, and characters at the pencil's point being the sole object of this initial discipline, The philosophical explanation of this system is, probably, that all its arrangements have been devised to form safeguards against prococity. It is noteworthy that even the stimulus of companionship in study is usually denied. each pupil reading and writing alone—the penalty for failure being so many blows with the ferule or kneeling for so many minutes on the rough brick payement which serves for a floor. At this period fear is manifestly the strongest motive brought to bear upon the scholar's mind. Boverity is accounted the first virtue in a pedagogue, and it would not be easy to overrate the share which the stern discipline enforced has in giving the boy his first lesson in political duty, viz., that of unquestioning submission, and in rendering him cringing and pliant toward official auperiors.

What Dr. Martin terms " the Arctic winter of monotonous toil" once passed, a more auspiclous season dawns on the youthful understanding with the beginning of the second stage in his undergraduate career. The key of the unintel-ligible writings he has been so long and so blindly acquiring is put into his hands; he is initiated in the translation and exposition of those sacred books he had previously stored away in his memory. The light, however, is let in but sparingly - us it were through chinks and rifts-a simple character here and there being explained, while a year or two may clapse before the teacher proceeds to the interpretation of entire contences. Now for the first time the mind of the statent begins to take in the oughts of these eages whose words he has by heart. Dr. Martin thinks the value of the exsea belonging to the second stage can

Chinese what translation into and out of the dead languages of the West does for us, calling nto play memory, judgment, taste, and giving the Chinese youth a command of his own vernacular which he would scarcely acquire in any other way. The author is disposed, however to think this portion of the course as much to easy as the preceding was too difficult. Instead of requiring a lad, dictionary in hand, to quarry out the meaning of his author, the teacher of him nothing more than a faithful reproduction of that which he has heard-the memory again being brought into predominant into the vermanular, the student is inducted into the art of composition. In China, we need no say, this art is beset with extraordinary difficulties, the problem being, not the creation of a fabric from parts which are adjusted and marked, as in the case of the inflected lannouns are undistinguished by any difference of form, the verb having no voice, mood, or tense, and the noun neither gender, number, person nor case. Now, if these uniform, unclassified ms were indifferent to position, the labor of arrangement would be nothing, and style impossible. But Dr. Martin reminds us that most of them appear to be endowed with a kind of mysterious polarity which controls their collocation, and renders them incapable of companionship except with certain characters, the choice of which would seem to be altogether arbitrary." In this, as in other things among the Chinese, usage has become law, combinations which were accidental, or optional with the writers of antiquity, and

even their errors, having become to their imitative posterity the consummate models of composition. To master this predstablished harmony is the fruit of incessant practice, and the labor of many years. The first step in composition is the yoking together of double characters; the second is the reduplication of these binary compounds, and the construction of parallels—an idea which runs so completely through the whole of Chineso literature that the mind of the student needs to be imbued with it at the very outset. This is the way he begins, The teacher writes "wind blows," the pupil adds "rain falls," Another day the teacher will write, "rivers are long," to which the pupil subjoins, "mountains are high," Subsequently the instructor would inscribe a more complex phrase, such as "The Emperor's grace is vast as heaven and earth," which the lad matches by "The sovereign's favor is profound as lake and sea." So exact is the symmetry required in these parallels that not only must noun, verb, adjective, and particle respond to each other with scrupulous exactness. but the very tones of a character are adjusted to each other with the precision of music. the novice is sufficiently exercised in the "parallel" for the idea of symmetry to have beme an instinct he is permitted to advance to other species of composition, which afford freer scope for his faculties. Such are the shotiah, in which a single thought is expanded in simple language; the lan, the formal discussion of a subject more or less extended; and epistles addressed to imaginary persons and the labor of a lifetime, examiners are satisfied adapted to all conceivable circumstances. In these epistles forms are copied with too much servility, but in the other two species of composition substance is deemed of more consequence than form, and the writer's thought is permitted to expaniate with but little restraint. In the third stage of undergraduate work composition is the leading object, acquisition of

knowledge being wholly subsidiary. The reading required embraces mainly rhetorical models and sundry authologies. studied, but only that of China, and that only in compends. It is studied, moreover, not for its lessons of wisdom, but for the sake of the allusions with which it enables a writer to embellish his classic diction. But while knowledge and mental discipling are at a discount, style is at a premium. Composition, on which the stu-dent at this period expends almost all his energies, takes, for the most part, the artificial form of verse, or of a kind of prose called som-chang, which is, if possible still more artificial. The seenflower and fruit of the whole educational sys- season, tem; for this alone can insure success in the public examinations for the civil service, in which students begin to adventure soon after garden, like the valedictory crater of an Amerentering on the third stage of their undergradunte preparation. The idea of progressive knowledge is, of course, allen to the nature of the men-chang, which contemplates nothing but neademic elegance of form in accordance with stereotype standards. Dr. Martin finds a tolerably exact parallel for the intense and fruitless concentration of energy on this species of composition in the dominance of Latin and Greek verse as tests of acquirement at Oxford up to a recent period.

Such is Dr. Martin's definition of what passes for education in China; but before adverting to the tests of proficiency in it, we may look at the appliances for instruction, and inquire how large a part of the population can avail themselves of them. There seems to be a good deal of misconception in regard to the school system and the proportion of filiterate persons in the Celestial Empire. There are, it appears, no schools supported by the State save those at the capital originally established on a liberal scale for the education of the Banner men, but now almost totally neglected. A further excention should, perhaps, be made in favor of schools opened in various places by provincial officers for special purposes. On the whole, however, it may be said that China has nothing approaching to a system of free common schools. Education is systematically left to public enterprise and private charity, the Government, for the most part, contenting itself with gathering the choicest fruits of competitive effort, and encouraging study by bountiful rewards. All who can afford to do so employ private instructors for their own famllies. The gentry, however, are exceedingly liberal in contributing to the support of free schools, and efforts for the promotion of gratuitous education are specially encouraged by enlightened magistrates. Recently over three hundred so-called tharity schools were opened in one department of the province of Canton as the result of official influence, but not at Government expense. The Emperor, too, by conferring titular rank or promotion in the official higrarchy, has a way of encouraging the growth of educational facilities without drawing a far thing from his exchequer. There is no doubt, nevertheless, that the opportunities afforded by charity schools are signally inadequate, and that only a small fraction of the Chinese youth have the advantages of the most elementary education brought within their reach.

Thus we see that there is a gross fallacy in the current impression that "education is universal in China; even coolies are taught to read and write." In one sense this is true, but not as we understand the terms reading and writing. In the alphabetical vernaculars of the West the ability to read and write implies the power of expressing one's thoughts by the pen, and of grasping the thoughts of others when so expressed. But Dr. Martin shows us that in Chinese, and especially in the classical or book language, it implies nothing of the sort. A shopkeeper may be able to write the numbers and keep accounts without being able to indite anything else; and a poor man's son who has been able to attend school only for our or five years, that is to say, during merely the first stage of an undergraduate course, will pronounce the characters of an ordinary bool with faultiess precision, yet not comprehend the meaning of a single sentence. It is obviously hard to estimate the proportion of illiteracy in a country where no statistics are necess; ble, but from such data as are at hand Dr. Marof the male population over ten years of age can read understandingly, and of course nothing

else ought to be called reading. This, at least, must be said for China, that its social structure is the most purely democratic the world has ever seen, in that it offers to the humblest the inspiration of a fair opportunity. Here is one country where wealth is not allowed raise its possessor to the seat of power; where the will, even of an Emperor, cannot be stow its offices on uneducated favorites, and where the caprice of the multitude is not permitted to confer the honors of the State on incompetent demagogues. The mandarins of China are almost without exception the choicest specimens of the educated classes, and so conpicuous are they in all that constitutes the in-electual life of the Chinese people, that foreigners have come to regard them as a favored caste, like the Brahmins of India, or as a disuld be further from the truth, "Those stately officials," says Dr. Martin, " for whom the people make way with such awe-struck deference, those magistrates who pass along the street with embroidered robes and imposing retinue, are not possessors of hereditary rank, neither do they owe their elevation to the favor of their sovereign, nor yet to the auffrages of self-elected, and the people regard them with the deeper respect because they know that they have carned their position by intellectual effort. The institution that accomplishes these re-

sults-the system which makes the attainment of official place and power contingent on remarkable success at competitive examinations -runs back in its essential features to the earliest period of recorded history. Of the great Shun, the model Emperor of remote antiquity, who lived about B. C. 2200, it is rec that he examined his officers every third year. and, after these tests, either gave them promotion or dismissed them from the service. More than a thousand years after the above date, at the commencement of the Kau dynasty, B, C, 1115, the Government was accustomed to examine candidates as as officers, in what were known as the "six arts," to wit, music, archery, horsemanship, writing, arithmetic, and the rites and core monies of public and social life. Under the dynasty of Han, after the lapse of another thousand years, the range of subjects for the civil service examination was largely extended. the Confucian ethics having become current, and a moral standard being regarded in the discrimination among competitors. The six arts were now supplemented with the so-called five studies, one of which was concerned with the geography of the empire. Here we see proof of an immense advance on the meagre requirements of the more ancient dynastics. Passing over another thousand years, we come to the era of the Tangs and the Sungs, at which time the standard of literary entertainment was greatly elevated, the graduates being arranged in three classes, and the officials in nine-a classification which still obtains. Arriving at the close of the fourth millennium under the sway of the present dynasty, Dr. Martin shows us how the simple trials instituted by Shunthave expanded into a colossal system in which, however, the six arts, the five studies, and the three classes or degrees remain as records of its progressive development. But the six arts are not what they were when competitors were required to ride a race, to shoot at a target, and to sing songs of their own composition to the accompaniment of their own guitars. In these days, when adequate literary attainment cannot be compassed without exceptional talent or with odes in praise of music and essays on the archery and horsemanship of the ancients. Doomed to live among the deposits of a buried world, and contending with millions of indefatigable rivals, the modern aspirant can hardly hope for success without devoting himself to a life of unremitting study.

The three regular degrees are, first, that of Sin-tsal, or "budding talent," which may be likened to the degree of B. A.; the second is Chu-jin, or "deserving of promotion," which may be compared with the degree of M. A.; the third is Tain-shi, or "fit for office," which roughly corresponds to the degree of D. C. L. To these may be added, as a fourth degree, the Hanlin, or membership of the "Forest of Pencils," as the Imperial Academy is named. long succession of contests marked by these graduated distinctions culminates in the designation once in three years by the Emperor of some individual whom he regards as the which is, if possible, still more artificial. The scen-chang, indeed, is the goal of the long course, the the bright consummate flower of a triennial season. "This is no common annual." says Dr. Martin, "like the senior wranglership ican college." It blooms, as we have said, but once in three years, and the whole empire, with its 300,000,000 of inhabitants, yields but a single Dr. Martin tells us that the town which had given the victor birth becomes noted forever. We have seen he says, the heralds, bearing the tidings of such a triumph, enter a humble cottage, and, amid the flaunting of banners and the blare of trumpets, announce to its startled inmates that one of their relations had been crowned by the Emperor as the cholar laurente of the triennial term.

This system of State examinations virtually constitutes a great national university-not, of course, after the Oxford pattern, in accordance with which students are trained as well as tested, but like the University of London, which determines the proficiency of candidates trained elsewhere. Aside, however, from the vast difference of scale, there is an equally remarkable difference in point of rigor. The University of London admits to its annual initial examination about 1,400 candidates and passes one-half of them. The Government examinations for the first degree in China admit about 2,000,000 candidates every year, and pass only one, or at the utmost two per cent.

The trials for the first degree, that of "budling talent," are beld in the chief city of each Hian, a territorial division corresponding to an American county. They are con ducted by a provincial Chancellor, whose jurisdiction extends over sixty or seventy of such districts, each of which he is required to visit once a year. In each district about 2,000 competitors enter the lists, ranging in age from the precoclous youth just entering his teens up to the venerable grandaire of seventy winters. Shut up for a night and a day, each in his narrow cell, they produce each a poem and one or two essays on themes assigned by the Chancel for, and then return to their homes to await the bulletin announcing their scale of merit. Out of the heap of manuscripts the Chancellor, assisted by his clerks, picks out some twenty that are distinguished for grace of diction and beauty of penmanship. Their authors neither receive a money prize nor obtain any office, they are honored with the degree of "budding talent," and are entitled to wear the decorations of the lowest grade in the corporation of mandarins.

Once in three years these " budding geniuses' repair to the provincial capital to engage in competition for the second degree, that of "promoted scholar." The number of competitors here amounts to five or six thousand, of whom only one in every hundred can be admitted to the coveted degree. This trial is conducted by special examiners sent down from Pekin, and instead of twenty-four, no fewer than three sessions of nearly three days each are occupied. Compositions in prese and verse are required, and themes are assigned with a special view of verifying the extent of reading and depth of scholarship. Penmanship is now left out of the account, each production marked with a cipher being copied by an official scribe, that the examiners may have no clue to its author, and no temptation to render a biassed judgment. Dr Martin compares the honor gained by the successful competition for the second degree with hat won by the victors in the Olymple games. Nevertheless, the "promoted scholar" is n ret a mandarin in the proper sense of the term, for his honors have not brought him the solid recompense of an income. In the

higher degree, for which he must contend with other promoted scholars. But here the chances are more in his favor, as the number of prizes is now three, instead of one, to the hundred, Should his name appear among the few who are now pronounced "ready for office," he is sure of employment, the vacant posts being distributed by lot, and therefore impartially, among the successful candidates. Before the drawing of lots, however, the ambitious student has a chance of winning the more coveted distinction of a place in the Imperial Acad-With this view, the two or three hundred survivors of three successive contests appear in the palace, where themes are assigned them by the Emperor himself. At this stage penmanship reappears as an element in ermining the result, and some twenty whose style is the most finished, whose scholarship the ripest, and whose handwriting the most eletinet order, enjoying a monopoly of learning gant (including, of course, the chang-yeen like the priesthood in ancient Egypt, Nothing or supreme scholar of the empire), are drafted into the college of Hanlin, "the Forest of Pencils," a kind of institute whose members are recognized as standing at the head of the lite-

rary profession. As regards the age of successful aspirants for the higher degrees, Dr. Martin tells us of an old mandarin, who, after seven unsuccessful trials at the triennial contests for the third de-gree, had, finally, at the mature age of fourscore, borne off the prize. In an official list. aspected by the author, it appears that out of ninety-nine successful competitors for the second degree, sixteen were over forty years of age, one sixty-two, and one eighty-three. The average age of the whole number is above thirty; and for the third degree, the averages are, of course, proportionally higher. As regards the impartiality of these examinations, we are told that even the Emperor dare not tamper with them, for they are regarded as the Chinaman's ballot box, his grand charter of rights. Seven years ago Peiching, First President of the Examining Board at Pekin, was put to death for having fraudulently conferred two or three degrees. The fraud was limited in extent, but

the damage it threatened was incalculable. We need not say that the Chinese educational scheme is the most efficient conservative agency that the world has seen, and that it must be mainly credited with the astounding fact that a civilization whose beginnings date back almost as far as the rise of a complex society in the Nile valley has outlived by thirty centuries the social organism associated with the names of the Pharaohs and the Ptolemies. American readers are much indebted to Dr. Martin for his clear. exhaustive, and authoritative account of this most interesting system. There are many careful study, but we have preferred to dwell upon such parts of the book as explain the scope and methods of those competitive examinations which account for so much that is anomalous in the history or in the present state of China, and which explain at once the merits and the shortcomings of the Chinese intellect and char-M. W. H.

Bagebot's Biographical Studies. The essays written from time to time for the English reviews by the late Mr. Walter Bagehot have been collected since his death, and two volumes have aiready been published under the title of "Literary Studies and Economic Studies," A third volume, comprising nearly a score of biographical sketches, has now been edited by Mr.
R. H. HUTTON (London, Longmans,
Green & Co.), and will be found pecu-liarly interesting as containing the opinions of a singularly keen and just observer on public men conspicuous in modern English history. or in our own time. Among the estimates of character and achievement to which the reader will turn with special curiosity may be cited the papers dealing with Lord Paimerston and Mr. Cobden, with Sir G. C. Lewis, who seems to have come near to being Mr. Bagehot's ideal of a statesman; with Lord Clarendon and Prof. Catrnes, with Mr. Gladstone, and Lord Beacons-

Writing of Mr. Coblen at the date of his death, Mr. Bagehot points out that even over political Beigravia-the last part of English society Mr. Cobden ever cuitivated-the event east a sadness. Every one felt that England had lost an individuality which it could never have again, and which was of the highest value; which, indeed, was, of its own kind, altogether anomalous in two respects. Howasa " sensitive agitator." Generally an agitator is a rough man of the O'Connell type, who says anything himself, and lets others say anything. But Mr. Cobden never spoke ill of any one. He arraigned principles, but not persons, and Mr. Barehot avers that, after a public career of thirty years, the man cannot be found who esthat" Mr. Cobden said this or that of me. and it was not true." It is added that this may seem trivial praise, but to these who know the great temptations of actual life it means very much. In the second place, Mr. Cobden was an "agitator for men business," for the men who, occupied with grave affairs, and accustomed to responsiities, are, as a rule, suspicious of agitation. They know how unanswerable charges may be brought against any one holding a responsible position, while such charges may, at the same time, be essentially unjust, A capitalist, says Mr. Bagehot, can hardly thinking, "Suppose a man was to make a speech against my mode of conducting my own business, how much he would have to say, Now it is, we are assured, an exact description of Mr. Cobden that, by the " personal magic of a single-minded practicability," he made men of business abandon this objection. Instead of beginning his speeches as Lord Houghton has said that political economy books in his time used to begin-" suppose a man on an island"-Mr. Cobden contrived, by his evident and firsthand familiarlty with real facts and actual life. to inspire a curiously diffused confidence in all matter-of-fact men. And so it came to pass that people had only to sav Mr. Cobden said so, and hard-headed men of business went and be-

Of Lord Palmerston, Mr. Bagehot says that he was born in the pre-scientific period, had got but little out of books, and, indeed, hardly realized abstract words. His data were derived from actual knowledge of men, from close specific contact, and he thought not in definitions and types, but in concrete examples. Hence his continual and effective use of ancedote. He was not, Mr. Bagehot thinks, " a common man, but a common man might have been cut out of him." In other words he had in him all that a common man has, and somothing more. He answered well enough the definition of a successful politician, having the "powers of a first-rate man and the creed of a second-rate man." Itis well known that Lord Palmerston chiefly prided himself on his foreign policy, but Mr. Bagehot thinks it is by his instinctive recognition of the judicious course to be pursued in home politics that he will be re-membered. Of Lord Clarendon, who outlived Lord Palmerston a few years, we are reminded that he belonged to a very small and very remarkable class of peers ito which, by the way, the present Marquis of Salisbury bethose, namely, who have inherited their rank, and yet who known what it is to earn their bread. The compulsory training of his youth seems to have been of great use to Lord Clarendon in the Foreign Office, and to the last week of his life ie was a curiously unremitting worker. Mr. Bagehot has no high opinion of Clarendon's diplomatic style, which has been so greatly praised; he points out that its gentle urbanity constantly masks an ambiguity and unintellig bility of thought, and was probably meant to do so. Like Palmerston, Lord Clarendon belonged to a transition age, possessing both the courtly manners which were going out and the mercial tastes and business knowledge which were coming in.

Mr. Barehot thinks that Sir G. C. Lewis was

easual blunders of others. On the contrary, he after which the biscuits and sardines owed his popularity to the fact that his multiarious knowledge was used to amend, and never to expose, the ignorance of others. Alone of modern English statesmen Sir George Lewis surpassed Cobilen in the gift of inspiring confidence. His speech had exactly the homely exactitude that English people like, and what said seemed so credible and sensible that in an hour or two his auditors were apt to believe

that they had always thought so, He was sometimes mistaken, however, in his otions of foreign politics, as, for instance, in his accordful opinion of Abraham Lincoln, and of the principle for which the North contended during the civil war. "I have never," said Sir G. C. Lowis, in a letter of March, 1861, "been able, either in conversation or by reading, to obtain an answer to the question. What will the North do if they beat the South? To restore the old Union would be an absurdity. What other state of things does that village lawyer. Lincoln, contemplate as the fruit of victory? I seems to me that the men now in power at Washington are much such persons as, in this country, get possession of a disreputable joint stock company. There is almost the same amount of ability and honesty."

About the time when Mr. Disraell accepted a

House of Commons. It was pointed out that during Mr. Disraeli's long membership of that body he had filled four very different roles, which are usually supposed to call for distinct and irreconcilable aptitudes. It was, of course as a political free lance or outsider that he first gained reputation, and Mr. Bagehot is of opinion that "upon this part of his career an his-torical examiner would give him first-rate marks-much higher than he would give to any competitor." As regards his second and most prolonged part in the House, that of recognized leader of the opposition, Mr. Begehot thinks he showed conspicuous abilitynot equal to that displayed in the free-lance period, but still very great. The writer adds-what few Liberals are candid nough to concede-that Mr. Disraeli showed, after his fashion, magnanimity and conscience in not hampering the Ministry on great questions, when his doing so would hurt the co try. On minor questions, however, he had in the writer's judgment no conscience at all, re-garding parliamentary business as a game, or as special pleaders of the old school regarded litigation. This is a charge to which most of the Conservative leader's sincere admirers would not probably except. As for Mr. Disraeli's management in the extremely difficult conjunctures of 1852, of 1858, and of 1866, when his party was in power, but without a substantial majority behind it. Mr. Bagehot admits that he evinced " a nimbleness, a tact, and a dexterity far sur-passing anything that Parliament had witnessed of the kind," Here, however, he exhausts all that he has to say by way of culogy. So far from being first-rate in the period that followed 1874, when he had a great majority in the House of Commons, Mr. Disraeli sank at once into "a ninth-rate" Minister, Mr. Bagehot compares him to those "guerrilla commanders who, having achieved a great deal with ill-trained troops, are utterly at a loss and fail when placed at the head of a first-rate army." He pronounces "this collapse no accident in Mr. Disraeli's career," but essentially characteristic of the man, and a thing which might have been predicted by any one who had studied the traits he had previously disclosed. This just a dered when the Conservative M vius loss than two years old, but it substant cides with the unanimous verdict of Liberal statesmen and writers in 1880. It is true, too,

that the country seemed to reaffirm the judgment on appeal; but there are signs already of a willingness to give Lord Beaconsfield's foreign policy, at all eyents, a rehearing. The necessity of maintaining a hold on Afghanistan is commending itself more and more to English public opinion, and it is far from being manifest, as yet, that Mr. Gladstone's treatment of South African troubles is an improvement on that of his predecessor. In Mr. Bagehot's estimate of Lord Beaconsfield there is certainly more candor and courtesy than is exhibited by most Liberals, but there are some traces of prejudice, and a readiness to ring changes on the stale charge of chariatanry. It is refreshing, however, to find Mr. Bagehot intimating that unequalled. Mr. Cobden was, we are told, very | the epithet of charlatan might be applied quite as appropriately to Mr. Lowe, whose inconvenient support the Liberals have gorrid of by

ing, much less reprinting, had the country vis-

ited by the author been any other than that

mentioned. The time has passed when the shallow comments of the ordinary tourist, who does not know what to look for, and cannot even recognize things of real moment when he sees them, can, as a rule, expect to find an audience. Lady Florence Dixie went to one of the most unfamiliar and interesting corners of the earth, as to whose geological, topographical, botanical, and zoological phenomena the keenest curiosity exists, with just the same intellectual equipment, and with precisely the same aim, as if the object of her journey had been to shoot grouse or stalk door in the Scottish Highlands. Nature, it is true, has given her a quick eye for scenery, and she can indicate very cleverly the striking points of a landscape through that command of idlomatic English for which well-bred Engwomen are conspicuous. With the exception, however, of random bits of photography depleting the hues and outlines of mountain or ravine, the eye and mind of the writer soom to have been occupied with nothing except the game her party managed to shoot, and the meals they had to cat. So far as the substance or the easual allusions of this book permit us to form an opinion on the subject, she appears to have been totally unconscious of the many important questions relating to an almost unexplored region, and toward whose solution a properly educated traveller could not have failed to contribute something. In feed, so far as this necount of their journey throws any light upon their qualifications, Lady Florence Dixle and her brothers, Lord Queensberry and Lord James Douglas, seem have been perfectly incompetent to undertake any species of exploration beyond that of a Highland moor, from which we expect no larger results than a well-filled bag and a robust appetite for lunch. We know of nothing better calculated to confirm and emphasize the satirical allusions in "Lothair" to the absence of education in the British aristocracy than this volume, in which the author complacently sets forth her almost total failure to profit by opportunities for which many a scientist would give five years of his existence When we consider how many books embodying the fruits of patient and prolonged hardship and privation undergone by German explorers of first-rate abilities and acquirements (those of Richthoven, for example) still remain untransiated, we cannot repress a certain feeling of disgust and indignation that such trash as this should be reprinted and presented American public as a work containing information of substantial value touching one of the most remote and mysterious sections of the American continent. It will scarcely be preended that the publication of this book is justia by the fact that the author happens to be a laughter of the late Marquess of Queensberry. The title of the book is a misnemer, and calulated to give a wrong impression of the round traversed. From the phrase, "Across atagonia," the reader naturally infers either that the writer, like some preceding travellers, entered the country from the Argentine outposts and went over the whole length of it to the Straits of Magellan, or else that she went

interally across the broad part of the peninsula "made" to be a Cabinet Minister. "If," said | from the Atlantic to the Andes. The writer did seems one who did much business with him, nothing of the kind, having disembarked at nothing of the kind, having disembarked at there is any fault in what you say, he will find | Sandy Point, the apex of the pecchasula, and it out." Yet, authorize his attainments were remarkably wide and his memory tenacious, he brier, where she sciourned for a few found

the party seem to have given out, and they began to thirst for the dainties and comforts of Park Lane and Piccadilly, How far Lady Florence went, or how long she was absent from civilization, it is impossible to say, for as she evinces a superb indifference to dates and figures, and has, of course, forgotten to append a map of her wan derings, we have found it quite impossible to keep our bearings or identify most of the locali-

pages, aside from the fact that the scenery of Patagonia in the neighborhood of the Andes is ine, is the statement that the author rode an indefinite number of miles, slept during an indefinite number of nights in a portable tent; shot with her own fewling piece or rifle an indefinite quantity of game, large and small; beloed to cook and eat an indefinite number of guanavo and ostrich steaks, and reflected questionable credit on her sex by killing a doer chom she encountered in a virgin solltude, and whose unsuspicious tameness, and friendly approach to man was required with death at the hands of the female of the human species. ness that she did not particularly distinguish perself on this occasion, but, as she tells the peerage Mr. Bagehot reviewed his career in the story herself, relating with some gusto how she crawled back through the underbrush until she could seize a gun and plant a bullet in the unsuspecting animal, we do not care very much for her thin and tardy pretence of feminine gentleness and pity. After reading this chapter we are prompted to say that if the author of this edifying feat at arms is a fair specimen of her caste, we want no female English aristocrats, nor any imitations of them, in the United States. Let them stay where they are until the reformation of the land laws, which is unquestionably at hand, shall put an end to a state of things in which killing and eating can be complacently described as the cardinal features of an ideal femining exist-

ARMED AGAINST CONTAGION.

What was Learned About Vaccination by a Patient with a Note Book.

On the wall of the further end of the Essex Market building are two signs, one in German and one in English, both signifying that vaccination is gratuitous therein. A reporter to see what sort of people avail themselves of this opportunity, followed a throng up the staircase between the signs and found himself in the reception room of the Eastern Dispensary.

'Are all these people about to be vaccinated?' he asked of an attendant.

No; only a few have come for that purpose Vaccination goes on during the entire year, but the most of it is done in April and May-just before the hot weather. You see [here he consuited a big entry book! we have only vaccinated two to-day, but in May last year we vaccinated three hundred and seventy persons."

For further information he referred the reporter to Dr. S. S. Bogert, the house physician to whom the reporter, under sudden inspiration, said he would like to be vaccinated in order to understand exactly how it felt, how it is done, and all about it in a general way. The reporter took his overcoat and his under coat off and began to roll up his shirt sleeve while

off and began to roll up his shirt sleeve while the physician talked.

The Dector said that the number of persons vacchasted varies according to circumstances. When there is a popular alarm about contagious diseases there is a greater demand for the operation than when the season is ordinarily healtful. The greatest humber vaccinated is always in April and May. He said that the reporter had accidentally stumbled upon the boadquarters for information upon the subject. It was there that Dr. Jonas P. Loines, the Sir William Jenner of America, held forth for many years and succeeded in so extending the said and use of vaccine virus that it used to be a common eight to see a line of people reaching from the doorway of the dispensary around the corner of Grand street, and ending a block away. The history of vaccination in New York, according to the Dector, is simple. The first resident vaccinated was Dr. Valentine Seaman, who submitted to the operation in 17-9, and whose grandson was recently established at the lead of the medical staff on Blackweit's Island; who submitted to the operation in 1759 and whose grundson was recently established at the head of the medical staff on Blackwell's Island; but the first general and graduitous vaccination in the city was done in the Eastern Discensary. At first human virus, used from arm to arm was the only kind known, but now bovine virus is more common. Bovine virus is not so estain as human vaccine, became it is impossible to tell when the call that has yielded it ceases to supply efficacious virus.

The New York Dispensary introduced the begine virus, and in one year made a profit of \$16,000 upon the sale and the use of it. This was in 1864. This fact became known, and, as the manner of producing the vaccine matter from the call besing; many people undertook from the call besing; many people undertook

shelving him in the House of Lords.

Across Patagonia.

The book written by Lady Florence Dixie and republished under the above title by Worthington, would not have been worth print. the blood, to inoculate the wound with virus from a calf already in use. A sore is thus produced, without fajory to the beast, and after a week's time a store of vaccine matter flows from the abrasion. Cloose quillis that have been scraped so as to present a clean rough surface are rubbed in the fluid while the calfilles upon its back with its implest before the rough surface are rubbed in the slaud while the call lies upon its back, with its limbs tellered so that it can neither hurt itself nor its carturs. From 1,000 to 10,000 quills, varying with diffurent calves, are thus provided with virus. They are not filled with the matter as is popularly supposed, but the outer surface of the quill is rubbed in the fluid, and it is allowed to dry there and to be wet with the mointure of the wound that the physician makes on the patient's arm.

wound that the physician makes on the patient's arm.

The Doctor has charge of several calves on a farm in the country. He showed the reporter several tiny vials filled with virus which was seen to be a thin, amber-colored fluid. He had in his keeping several scales from the arms of patients, and he explained that it is customary to use these by powdering them and mixing them with virus; but there is more risk of failure with them than with the quills.

Dr. Bogert said that anybody could vaccinate himself, but it is the custom to make the abrasion over the deltoid muscle, and that is easily found only in thin people. In them it is marked by a hollow in the flesh. The Doctor showed his patient an instrument, consisting of six needles set in a solid metal handle. He said that this was used in the dispensary. It simply secretically account of the consisting of the consisting of the dispensary. It simply secretically account of the consisting of the dispensary. It simply secretically account of the consisting of the consisting of the dispensary. It simply secretically account of the consisting of the consisting of the dispensary. It simply secretically account of the consisting of the dispensary.

six needles set in a solid metal handle. He said that this was used in the dispensary. It simply scratches the skin and draws the blood. It is cleaned after earn usage by running the needles in and out of a bit of cloth. The Dester treated his patient to vaccination by his present method. He first scraped the skin over the detonit mascele with the edge of a bright new lance, and then draw a shalling of fine scratches over the reddened spot with the point of the blade. Blood argeared behind the knife point, and into this slight wound the physician rubbed one of the quells.

into this stight wound the physician rubbed one of the quils, "
It does not burt much," said the patient.
"No," said the Doctor; "but it's a singular thing that the older a person gets the more painfull its. I can vaccinate a sleeping babe without awakening it; but a middle aged man will complain of the pain. To a man of your areast years it will remain a burning sore for day.
The Doctor, in rolling up the patient's sleeved iscovered a big sear from a former vaccination.
Why, you did not need vaccination, said he flut that was done when I was 7 years old."
Said the reporter.

said the reporter.

Wolf, and the physician, that took well, and it's probably all right to day. I am not a firm believer in the old-lashtened theory that we ronew ourselves over and over every seven years.

rs." But you have vaccinated me, nevertheless, It certainly won't do you any harm," sai the Doctor.

Mexican Society.

From the New Orients Democrat.

There exists no other society on the planet, not even in India, where there is more distinction of caste and class than is found in Mexico. On the Gulf coast, by consequence of unfortunate amalgamation of the white and the Indian and Chinese and the black races, there are said to exist at least a dozen separate classes of humanity, of different colors, or, at least, of different characteristics. In the capital such is not the cass. There are Castillans and creekes, or children of Indian mothers and Spanish fathers and tul-blooded Indians. The crecies are noted for their intelligence, their symmetry of form and feature, and their personal courage. Their complexion may be said to resemble that of the far-tamed caballeros of Andalusia. The males are tall and shapely, while the ladies are generally very beautiful, are well formed, possess deicately mounded hands and feet, and the most beautiful eyes of any of the human family. The belies of the south of France, of the mountains and reasins of Spain, of the serras and coasts of Pertugal and the famous cities of Iraly, must yield to their charming sisters of the Latin requires in the beauty, shape, size and expression of the eyea. They are seen seed in 21 year reasing the median for the years of the form between their long fringes seems to median to the eyes. From the New Orleans Democrat. avery soul.

Mexican indies are exemplary wives and
Those inducto them

Eardir be overestimated; that they do for the the is of opinion that not more than one in aix chooses, proceed to Pekin to seek the next was by no means addicted to cutting up the days in the feet mile of the Cordillerus. "hearthstone I.f. hearthstone I.f. hear

WHISTLING DIRDS

Artists in Feathers that Pipe Operatio Airs and Popular Meledies

At a bird store in this city there are forty whistling buildnehes and half a dozen blackofrds and starlings of similar musical procliviles. One of these tiny musicians will give a little tess of his head and whistle you atube from "Boceacelo" or "Patinita," Then another follows with "The Pope he leads a merry life," a galop or waltz, or some German Politic. ties. About all that can be gleaned from her Hed. Their song is generally a German melody, for most of the birds come fee THIRDY. A few are caught and taught in H they whistle English tunes like "Golfsave the Dealers class whistling birds as profelent or

not proficient. To the first class by ong those

that whistle several tunes, or one tune very well, and in the second class are birds that enn only whistle a fraction of a tune. birds about forty are proficient, and abthirds of these can whietle two melodies. of birds may have learned three or The most expensive bird in the est this price bis100 whistles only one in art like unto a flower. But his tondown as the low notes of a flute, and duces trills and florid passages or prima down might be promi.

These birds abound in Hessen at where they are taught by tailors, as and weavers, whose occupations keed doors. The teaching begins from the are strong enough to be taken from The tune they are to learn is whistle several times a day, particularly in ing and evening. Whistling is it instruments are too shrill. They was hear the tune in the same other tune should be played or whist hearing as long as they are learning, in which they master a melody varies to six months. They will almost at all their tune at the command is not or of birds may have learned three or their tune at the command is now the person who feeds them, and so it is important that they should by the same person. When pip

so it is important that they should by the same person. When pipply their head, and sometimes sway the ro and spread out the tail like a far Buyers visit the houses of tailors, and weavers in little German town make bargains with these people, sometimes find a bird early in the pits owner may know of another. It to his friend, and he again may assume the property of the same to his friend, and he again may as to another friend. By hight he birds and ten men following his adjourn to a little tavern and ha match. One tailor in Hessen has than fifty birds to whistle." Protenow people don't care for birds this tune. Sometimes a bird withe buyer. Then the owner puts the buyer. Then the owner nots his cage and rubs two fints together duce a peculiar musical sould. The causes the bird to whistle. Often the

auses the bird to whistle. Often the birds pipe of their own second.

They do not breed in captivity. Females are lifficult to teach. Only one in fifty can be arone rily taught. Whistling birds never formst a unc. They are very affectionate and fathful; they will follow their owner, perch on his arm or singer, and feed from his hand.

Surrilings have several cute tricks in a fditton to their musical accomplishments. They hap arone und the house looking for all terring objects, which they appropriate and concess. Surrilings which they appropriate and conseal. Springs and blackbirds are more difficult to teach than

which one cores are more difficult to teach than buildnehes.

Whistling birds suffer considerably during a sea voyage. They are put in little cases, which are placed seven in a row in cases containing 210. Birds of ordinary proficiency cost from \$1 to \$4 abroad, and are sold here at prices varying from \$15 to \$50. Sometimes they are conceiled in large bouquets and threed on the inbient large dinner parties, where they pipe their tuno thesen.

in args dinner parties, where they pipe their tune unseen.

The builingth has no natural song, and the natural song of the starling and blacabird is indifferent; but all the male birds and some females of these species have the ability of imitating a melody in a ciear, flute-like tone and with wonderful accuracy.

A story is told of one of these whistling birds which had been taught a simple melody. Hearing it performed on the plane one day, with variations, he began to hiss and flutter until the playing stopped. Then he gave his version of the air. The same bird was owned for a time by a lady whose custom was to have a hymn song at the conclusion of evening prayers. He caught the tune, and always accompanied the voices. Afterward, when he passed into another family, he continued to sing the hymn every evening at the same time as he used to sing it in the family where he first heard it.

ALCOHOLISM INCREASING.

Observations on the Subject by an Orderly in Bellevne Hospital.

A well-dressed man sat in a roomy arm. chair in a cell in Bellevue Hospital yesterday while John Connolly, the orderly in charge, prepared a medicinal mixture for him. A handsomely dressed lady, with blende hair and a pale, sad face, watched both. She was the wife of the man in the armchair. After the preparation had been given to the patient the lady went away." This is a case of alcholism." the orderiy said. "This patient is a well-known stock speculator, living in Fifth avenue. He is strongly addicted to drink at all times. but there are periods when he indules in intoxicating drink more than at of the goes about for weeks from one another, never showing up at h He drinks in each place, and seidem after a day's rest at home he is algoholism. He is physically alcoholism. He is physically a strong man, When he gets beyond control of friends hais brought here. Three days here at the longest suffices to bring him around all right. He will leave here to-morrow, and he may to back smain in two menths. The declars say the man can be cursed by his own will, but he deem that the contrary. He has been admitted here a half dozen times within the past year and a half. As the man likes to give free rein to his tastes, we expect him a half dozen more times in the next year and a half.

expect him a half dozen more times in the next year and a half.

Nor is he alient. We have had protably a dozen or litteen cases in the past three mains. Some were mechanics. Two or three that how call to mind were like this patienthere with plenty of money. A few were well-to-do tradesness, we had a potection here last week. He had been everyone with grief some three weeks ago by the death of a little girl. He dock to require tippling at home, and then to contable draughts at harrooms on his rounds. Meanwalls he forgot to eat anything. His wife discovered the state of a flairs, and but him reported a the police station as sick. He was admined here on the recommendation of an Alternau, his was very beisterous, and we had to the final more than once to the bed there. In three days he left here and was assigned to duty, by mag as it may seem, persons that come one a weas it may seem, persons that come rably turn up again. It seems that holds meets hold of them they clease his hold, for it undern will power. Three years ago compareases were brought to our police. all a description of the state of the state of the follows on my hands.

The cause of this increase of a satisfying the appetite for firms allout regard to rest and nourself over that more hard inquiry is likely any years ago, and that comparing see put alcohol in unusual grant to the state of the state

loes not belong. Observation has been deductions."

Crop Prospects in California. Crop reports from all parts of the state show mounting to between \$80,000 in continuous have suffered in their to the train of the theory of all their to the train of their trains and the great wheat product the trains of the trains and their trains and their trains and their trains and trains a much a comparison of their trains all trains and train

SAN PRANCISCO, Cal., March 13, -11;